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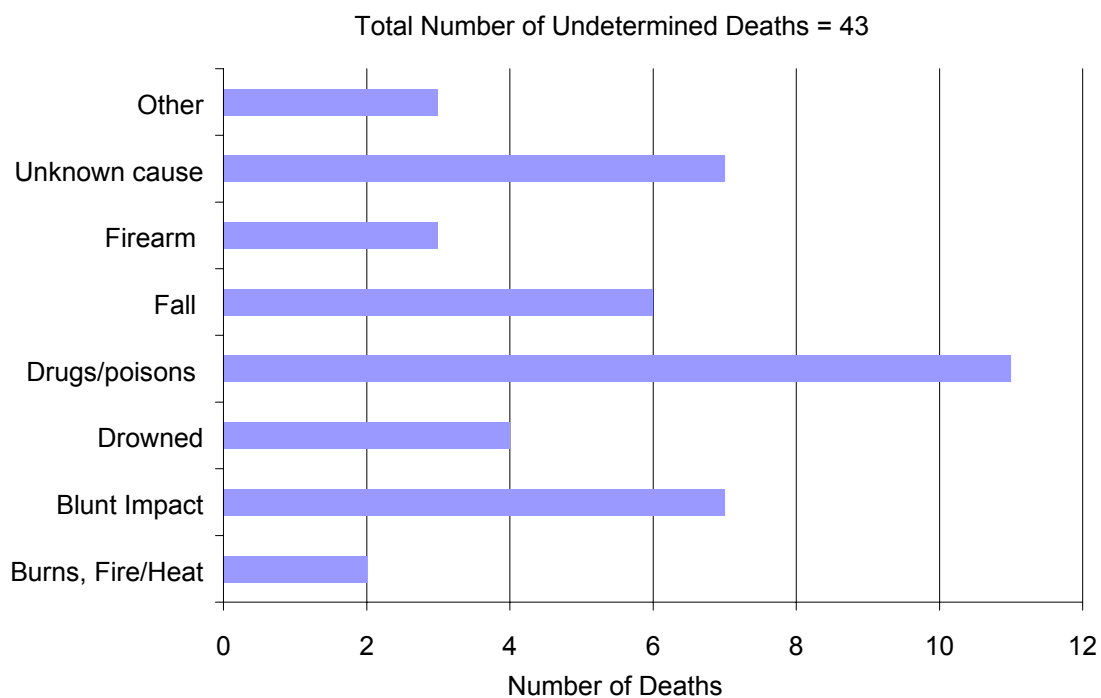
***Manner: UNDETERMINED***

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Deaths are certified as undetermined (or unclassified) manner of death when serious doubt exists as to whether a person met his or her death intentionally or accidentally. Information concerning the circumstances may be lacking because of the absence of background information or witnesses, or because of a lengthy delay between death and discovery of the body. If an extensive investigation and autopsy cannot clarify the circumstances, the death is placed in this category. Within King County, there were 43 deaths with manner unclassified or undetermined, accounting for 3% (43/1468) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 1999. There was one instance where a presumptive death certification was issued where the body was not found and the circumstances surrounding the disappearances were suspicious. Drugs caused eleven (26%) of the 43 deaths of undetermined manner. For a more detailed review of drug-caused deaths in 1999 see also the discussion in the section on Drugs and Poisons on page 81.

Graph 8-1

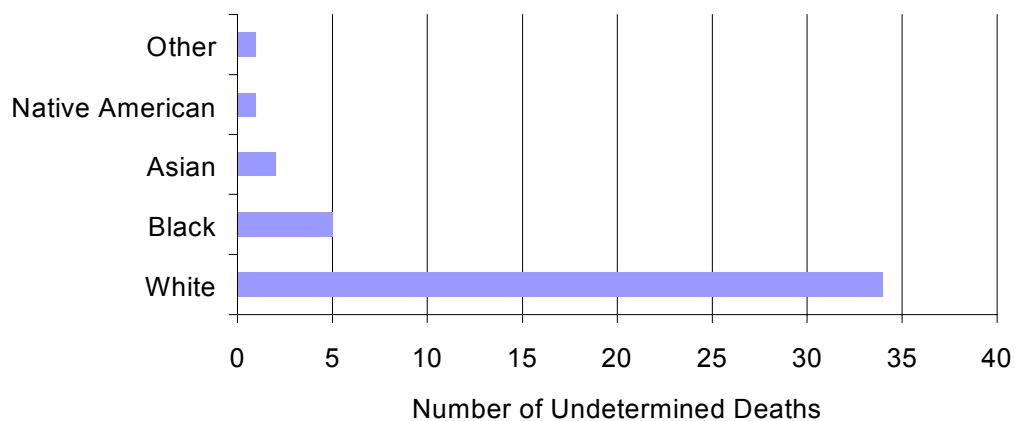
## Undetermined Circumstances in 1999



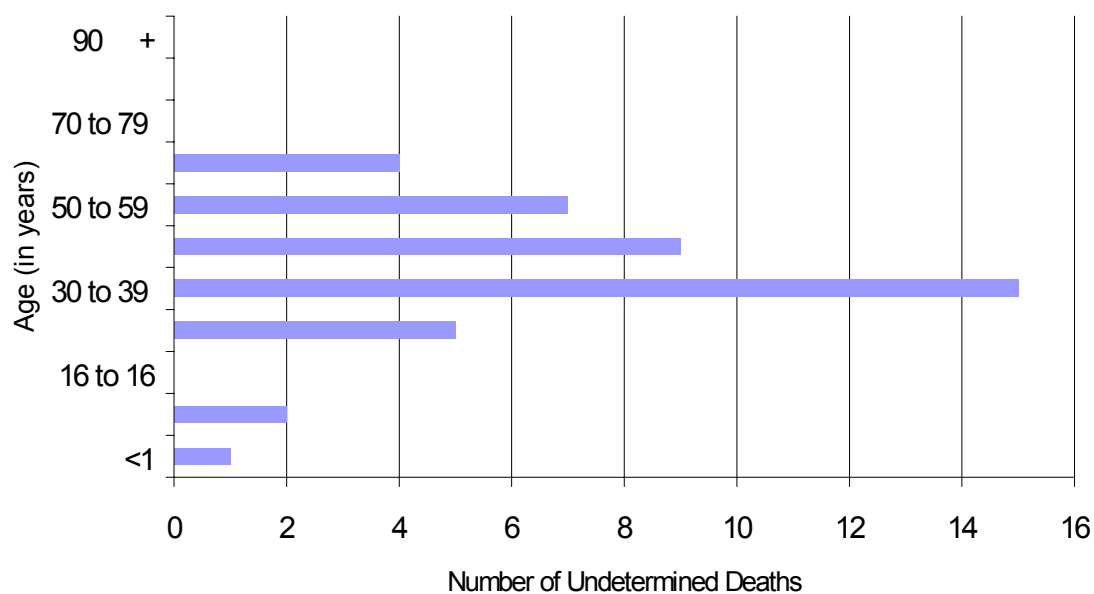
**Table 8-1 Undetermined Circumstances and Race of the Decedent**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	1	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Impact	4	2	0	0	1		7
<i>Male</i>	4	2	0	0	1	7	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drowned	3	0	1	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	2	0	1	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	10	0	1	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	1	0	0	6	
Fall	5	0	0	1	0		6
<i>Male</i>	4	0	0	1	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Firearm	3	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	6	1	0	0	0		7
<i>Male</i>	4	1	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Other	2	1	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	1	1	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	34	5	2	1	1		43
Percent	79	12	5	2	2		

**Graph 8-2**                      **Deaths Due to Undetermined Circumstances and  
Race of the Decedent**



**Graph 8-3**                      **Deaths Due to Undetermined Circumstances and  
Age Group of the Decedent**



**Table 8-2 Undetermined Circumstances and Age Group of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD / GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)											SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	<1	6 to 15	16 to 16	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Impact	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0		7
Male	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	7	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drowned	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0		4
Male	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	0	0	0	1	4	4	1	1	0	0	0		11
Male	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	7	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	
Fall	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0		6
Male	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Firearm	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		3
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0		7
Male	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Other	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		3
Male	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	1	2	0	5	15	9	7	4	0	0	0		43
Percent	2	5	0	12	35	21	16	9	0	0	0		

**Table 8-3 Undetermined Circumstances and Gender of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	1	2
Blunt Impact	7	0	7
Drowned	3	1	4
Drugs/poisons	5	6	11
Fall	5	1	6
Firearms	2	1	3
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	5	2	7
Other	2	1	3
Total	30	13	43
Percent	70	30	

**Table 8-4 Undetermined Circumstances and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent**

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	1	0	2
Blunt Impact	3	4	0	7
Drowned	2	2	0	4
Drugs/poisons	3	7	1	11
Fall	4	2	0	6
Firearms	0	2	1	3
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	2	4	1	7
Other	0	0	3	3
Total	15	22	6	43